



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**Vice Chair Michelle Steel**

**3<sup>rd</sup> District – Rolling Hills Estates**

Kristine Cazadd  
Interim Executive Director  
[www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov)

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**Contact:** NR 101-11-S  
**Anita Gore**  
**916-327-8988**

## **California Gasoline Consumption Down 4.1% in May**

*Average Price for a Gallon of Gasoline in California Hit \$4.23 in May 2011*

Michelle Steel, Vice Chair of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE), today announced gasoline and diesel consumption figures for May 2011. California gasoline consumption declined 4.1 percent in May compared to May last year. This is the second consecutive month of declines at or over 4 percent.

In California, gasoline consumption in May 2011 was down 4.1 percent to 1.24 billion gallons compared to May 2010's total 1.29 billion gallons. The California average price for a gallon of gasoline was up \$1.09 to \$4.23 in May 2011, a 35 percent increase over May 2010's average price of \$3.14 per gallon. The national average price of a gallon of gasoline rose \$1.07 to \$3.96 in May 2011, a 37 percent increase over May 2010's national average price of \$2.89 for a gallon of gasoline.

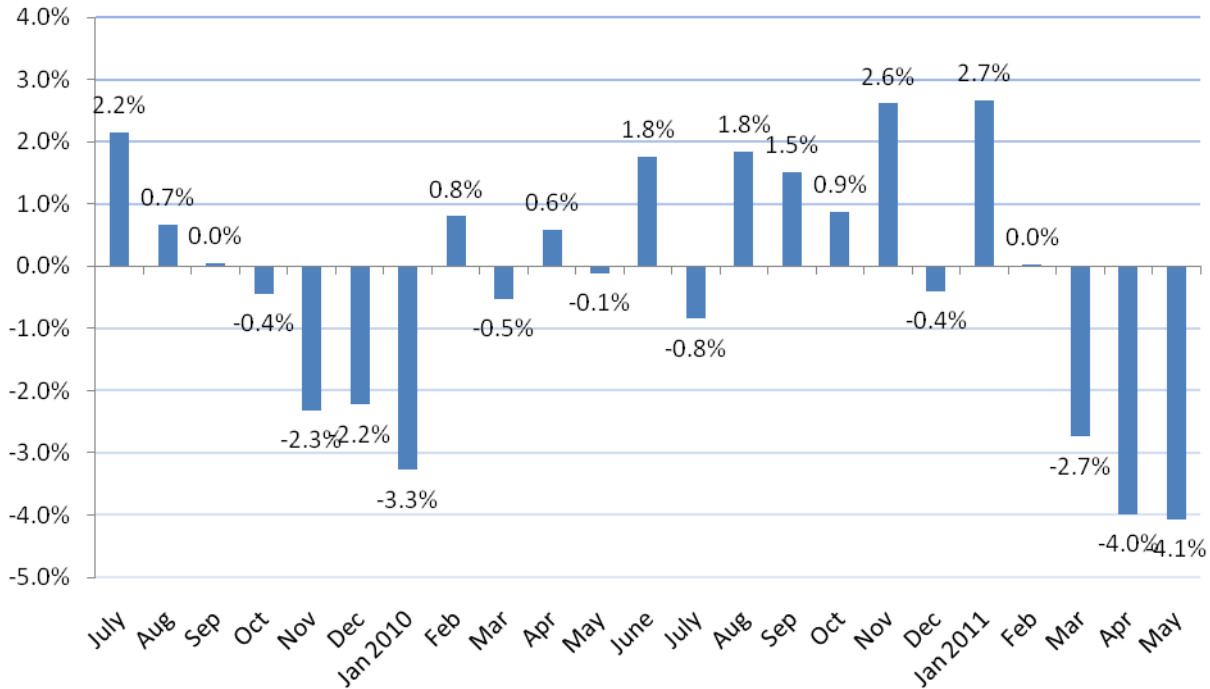
California's diesel fuel consumption figures for May 2011 show an increase of 3.9 percent to 213 million gallons compared to May 2010's total of 205 million gallons. However, the May 2010 diesel figures included 13.2 million in refunds. After adjusting for the refunds, diesel consumption decreased 2.4 percent in May 2011. The California average price for a gallon of diesel was up \$1.15 to \$4.36 in May 2011, a 36 percent increase over May 2010's average price of \$3.21 per gallon of diesel. Nationally, the average price for a gallon of diesel rose 98 cents to \$4.05 in May 2011, a 32 percent increase over May 2010's national average price of \$3.07 per gallon of diesel.

Gasoline and diesel fuel figures are net consumption that includes the State Board of Equalization's audit assessments, refunds, amended and late tax returns, and the State Controller's Office refunds. The BOE is able to monitor gallons through tax receipts paid by fuel distributors in California. For all monthly, quarterly and annual fuel reports, visit [www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm).

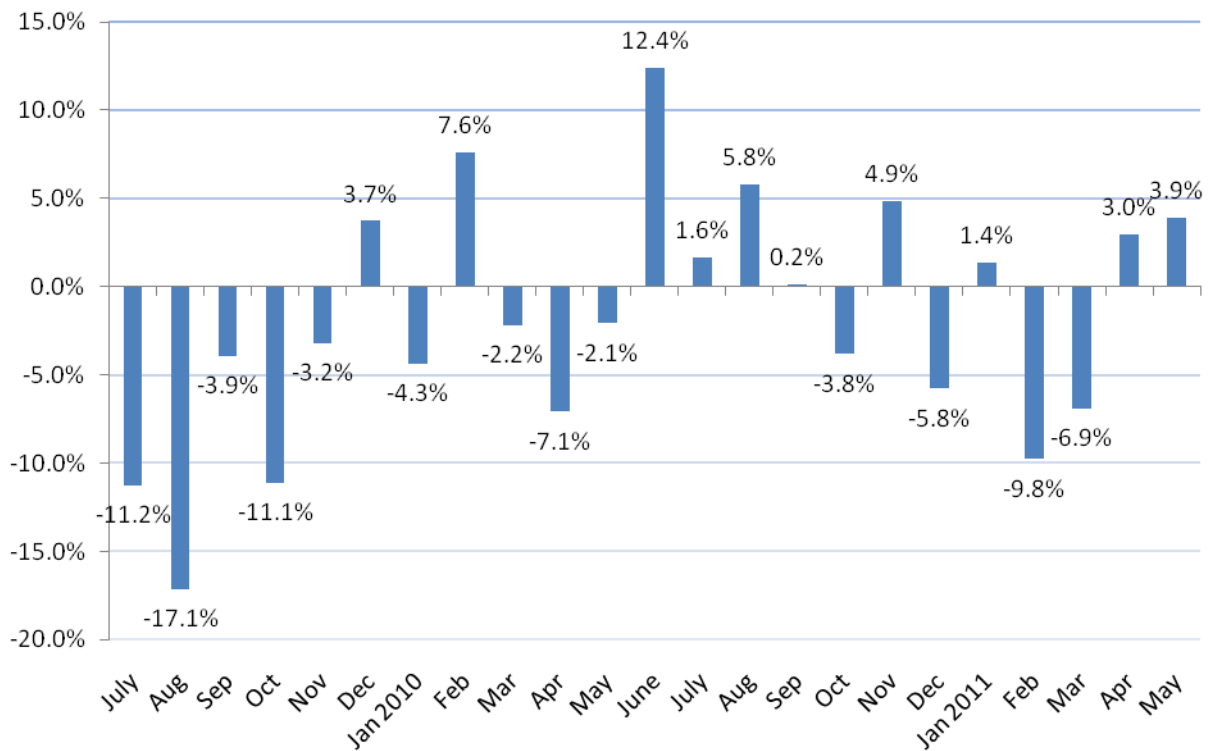
Taxable Gasoline Gallons: [www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/MVF\\_10\\_Year\\_Report.pdf](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/MVF_10_Year_Report.pdf)

Taxable Diesel Gallons: [www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel\\_10\\_Year\\_Report.pdf](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel_10_Year_Report.pdf)

### Percent Change in Gas Consumption Compared to 12 Months Prior From July 2009 Through May 2011



### Percent Change in Diesel Gallons Compared to 12 months Prior From July 2009 Through May 2011



Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, Michelle Steel serves as *Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate*. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel's decisive leadership. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses. To date, over \$100 million in security deposits have been returned to taxpayers.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$50 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit [www.taxes.ca.gov](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

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